

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

International reference

PCT/EP2004/010581

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Re Box No V.

1 In the present opinion reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP 0 926 690 A (THE FURUKAWA ELECTRIC CO., LTD) June 30, 1999
(1999-06-30)

D2: US 5 412 366 A (OHJI ET AL) May 2, 1995 (1995-05-02)

D3: EP 1 241 732 A (MITSUBISHI DENKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA) September 18, 2002 (2002-09-18)

D4: US 5 814 900 A (ESSER ET AL) September 29, 1998 (1998-09-29)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of the claim 1 is not novel in terms of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 (Figures 10 and 22) and D2 (Claim 1; Figure 11) each discloses:

"Inductive rotary transducer for transmitting data, said transducer having a fixed part and a rotating part, with the rotating part and the fixed part having a common virtual rotational axis, and with the rotating part rotating about the fixed part, and with the data transmission being carried out over at least one data transmission path by means of at least one inductive element, and with the data transmission path being arranged outside the rotational axis of the rotary transducer."

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-9 and 12-14

The claims 2-9 and 12-14 do not contain any features that, in combination with the features of any other claim to which they relate, fulfill the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty or inventive step: the claims 2-5, 7-9, 12 and 14 are not novel (D1 or D2). The claims 6 and 13 do not fulfill the requirements of the PCT with regard to inventive step (D3: Column 9, lines 25-32; D4: Column 5, lines 58-63).

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4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 10-11

The combination of features contained in the dependent claims is neither known from the prior art nor is it suggested by it. The reasons for this are as follows: the solution according to the invention presents the possibility of realizing a bidirectional rotary transducer with the smallest possible diameter.